Theft of personal property is an ongoing battle in any community, and UMass is no different. Office Watch; Like it, Lock it, Keep it!; and Project Protect are three UMass Police Department (UMPD) programs to help educate and protect university students, faculty, staff, and visitors against theft.

CRIME STATISTICS
Since UMPD began using these programs in 2010, theft and theft-related crimes have decreased by 73 percent. By educating our community and working hard to catch criminals targeting the university, we hope to keep the number of thefts on the decline, but we need your help.
TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE WHILE ON CAMPUS

ALWAYS LOCK YOUR DOORS, even if you’re leaving your residence hall room for just a few minutes. Theft is a crime of opportunity, don’t give a criminal that opportunity. It only takes a second for someone to walk into your room and walk off with your valuables.

NEVER LEAVE VALUABLES UNATTENDED. Whether you’re in the library, at the Dining Commons, working out at the Recreation Center, or in an office environment, never let your valuables (laptops, tablets, smart phones, etc.) out of your sight, even for just a minute.

REGISTER YOUR VALUABLES WITH PROJECT PROTECT. The identification information police need to recover your lost or stolen property is rarely accessible once your property is gone. Take a few moments to register your valuables with Project Protect. Registration is free for all students, faculty, and staff via the UMass Police Department web page at www.umass.edu/umpd/project-protect.

EMPLOYEES: LOCK YOUR DOORS AT THE END OF THE DAY. Take a moment to ensure your work area is locked before leaving. Encourage your coworkers to do the same. Working together makes UMass a safer and more secure workplace.

EMPLOYEES: QUESTION UNKNOWN PEOPLE IN YOUR WORK AREA. If someone you don’t know enters your work area, talk to them. A simple “can I help you” will help you figure out if someone belongs there, or if you should possibly call the police.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. Be an active bystander. If you see someone or something suspicious, call the police.

The faster the police are notified, the more likely they are to catch those involved and possibly retrieve your stolen property. Be prepared to call for help. Put your local police department’s number in your phone for quick access—the UMPD’s number is (413) 545-2121.

If you call 911, be prepared to explain where you are and what you are reporting. Don’t assume the operator knows your location or what you are talking about.

REPORTING CRIME: If you believe a crime has just occurred on campus and the suspect is still in the area call UMPD, (413) 545-2121. Some non-emergency incidents can be reported online; go to the UMPD website: www.umass.edu/umpd/online-incident-reporting for information and to complete a report.

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